

WARREN TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2021  
ZOOM Meeting

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

The Environmental Commission (EC) of Warren Township, in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey convened in a Regular Meeting at the Warren Township Municipal Building, 46 Mountain Blvd., Warren, New Jersey on Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Wayne DeFeo called the meeting to start at 7:07PM via a Zoom meeting Conference.

Pursuant to the requirement of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was given by posting a copy on the Township Bulletin Board and sending a copy to the Township Clerk, Echoes Sentinel and Courier News as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. All Commissioners are duly appointed volunteers working for the Township of Warren.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Wayne DeFeo, Laura Mandell, Susan Zeitels, Karen Task, Karen Kaiser, Christina Lewis, Valerie Meyers  
Absent: Peter Villani, Harold Black,

**III. Discussion**

There was a discussion regarding the Toll Brothers, Warren Urban Renewal site (Villas at Warren). Christina Lewis took photos and forwarded to the group of the detention pond on the Warren Health and Racquet Club property. The photos depict the silt from the construction site that has not been kept on site and has effected the detention pond. This extra silt has eliminated the spring peepers that lived in and around that detention pond for years. Wayne DeFeo forwarded the photos to Mike Mullin in the Engineering Department who has addressed the situation with the appropriate parties.

Wayne DeFeo encouraged the group to continue to look for environmental issues on both commercial and residential properties that may be an issue. He encouraged taking photos to support the issues so they could be forwarded to the appropriate parties.

Wayne DeFeo had a Zoom meeting with Mayor George Lazo and Deputy Mayor Victor Sordillo. The following items were discussed:

- Environmental Stewardship awards for a resident or business.
- Update website with relevant articles on current environmental issues and informative ideas for residents.
- Stream and trail cleanup hosted by WEC and the Green Team – Susan had started this process with the recreation department but did not get any results due to Covid-19 and the resources not being available for Spring. The objective is to have a Fall stream and trail cleanup and have the DPW, Recreation Department, the county and the Lower Raritan Watershed partnership help with tools and volunteers.

**Minutes**

The March WEC minutes were approved. Christina Lewis made a motion to approve the March minutes and Karen Kaiser seconded it.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

1. CASE: PB 21-03  
BLOCK/LOT Block 83 Lot 4 188 Mountain Avenue  
DATE: April 20, 2021  
APPLICANT: **BCUW Madeline Partners, LLC**  
Proposal: Preliminary & Final Site Plan -36 One Bedroom Special Needs Housing Development

1. WEC commends the developer on the rain garden plans and would like confirmation that the seeding plan is for all basins and that native grasses are part of the plantings.
2. Based on the high water-table, WEC recommends green infrastructure by the detention basin in the front of the property. This will help avoid additional water run-off and potential road hazards such as icing in the winter months. Please see attached rain garden brochure.
3. WEC recommends 100% of water controlled on site and recommends compost filter socks to help with any soil erosion.
4. WEC commends the developer on the extensive plantings. In addition to the proposed plantings, WEC recommends replacing Japanese forest grass, Japanese holly and Russian sage with native plants. WEC recommends adding a pollinator garden to the plans.
5. WEC recommends permeable pavement in the parking and walking areas.
6. A crosswalk between this development and Wagner Farm is recommended so the residents of the home may visit the farm.
7. It is recommended that the developer use Green Building and LEED design standards as provided by the Environmental Commission.
8. WEC requests minimalizing light pollution by using fully shielded lighting, using warm white or filtered LEDs instead of the bright white. WEC also recommends sensed lighting vs. timed lighting.
9. WEC recommends an electrical vehicle charging station be added to the plans (or at a minimum, the infrastructure be in place).
10. WEC questioned the recycling plan and would like to ensure it is part of the plan and that it conforms to the Ordinance and the County Solid Waste Management Plan.
11. WEC requests to see the waiver checklist.

#### **V. Discussion**

##### **Spotted Lanternfly**

Susan Zeitels to forward the revised flyer for the Spotted Lanternfly to Wayne DeFeo. Christina Lewis said she would like to run a workshop on how to create traps to catch and destroy the Spotted Lanternfly. Christina will follow up with the group via email or at the next WEC meeting.

##### **Warren Township Rain Gardens**

Laura Mandell informed the group that Rutgers had inspected the rain gardens and they looked fine. Laura Mandell will follow up with Doug Burro in the DPW on maintenance for the rain gardens over the course of the year.

VI Adjournment – 9:08PM Christina Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Laura Mandell seconded it.

The next meeting will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krisann Bintley, Secretary  
Environmental Commission